

LTCS BEST PRACTICE CATALOG SUBMISSION

Project Title: High Tea at the Oasis

Function Category:

X Patient Focused Organization Structures

Sub-category(s): Recreation-Education Heading: _____

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Hospital: Metropolitan State Hospital

The following Items are available regarding this Best Practice:

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. SELECTION OF PROJECT PROCESS AREA:

Interesting and educational experiences that will help our clients function at their best possible level are always sought out by our staff. Poor social skills appear to be a problem for many of our clients, and we continually look for ways to enhance their skills in social situations.

2. UNDERSTANDING EXISTING CONDITION WHICH NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

Clients at this hospital often demonstrate poor social skills in every day activities, and they have too few formalized experiences that provide both the occurrence of fun and the requirement of good manners. Just teaching the skills in a classroom or unit setting has not proven to be an effective way of reaching many clients and helping them develop their skills. Often clients in a group can answer questions regarding proper social behavior, or even role play correct social behavior in a group, but there is often little generalization of this to real life situations.

3. ANALYSIS

Informal assessments of clients' behaviors and of currently provided interventions and educational opportunities demonstrated the need for new ways to help clients achieve the above goals.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

The creator of this "intervention" has always enjoyed tea parties and has an extensive collection of tea cups, saucers, and tea pots. Using her own cups, saucers, and pots, she began by inviting a few clients to her first tea party in a small room in the patient's canteen (The Oasis) at the hospital. This party was a big success with the clients in terms of both their enjoyment and their ability to demonstrate excellent social skills and manners. As time went on, the tea parties became a once a week occurrence where select clients were able to enjoy special attention and treats while demonstrating exemplary manners.

5. RESULTS

As clients and staff became more aware of the tea parties at the Oasis, invitations to these parties became highly prized. Clients were often invited as special recognition of their progress in gaining skills which would help them to move on to a less restrictive environment. Additionally, some social skills classes were able to teach acceptable manners, and then the class would be invited to come to tea both as a reward for their learning and as a chance to have fun and demonstrate their learning. Often hospital staff and managers are included in the parties to provide more positive interactions between clients and hospital personnel at all levels.

6. LEARNING

Teaching occurs in a variety of settings--not just in a classroom or in an ongoing group. This kind of real social experience provides education, enjoyment, and increased self confidence to clients who may have little hope or enjoyment in their lives. The tea parties continue once a week, and most of the clients and the hospital staff all hope to be guests at these parties.